

## University of Dayton eCommons

---

News Releases

Marketing and Communications

---

7-24-2002

# Trio of Writers, Two Activists on 2002-03 Slate for UD Distinguished Speakers

University of Dayton

Follow this and additional works at: [https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news\\_rls](https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls)

---

### Recommended Citation

University of Dayton, "Trio of Writers, Two Activists on 2002-03 Slate for UD Distinguished Speakers" (2002). *News Releases*. 10015.  
[https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news\\_rls/10015](https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls/10015)

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Marketing and Communications at eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in News Releases by an authorized administrator of eCommons. For more information, please contact [frice1@udayton.edu](mailto:frice1@udayton.edu), [mschlangen1@udayton.edu](mailto:mschlangen1@udayton.edu).

734(1)  
C.1



July 24, 2002  
Contact: Pam Huber  
Huber@udayton.edu

---

## NEWS RELEASE

### TRIO OF WRITERS, TWO ACTIVISTS ON 2002-03 SLATE FOR UD DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS

DAYTON, Ohio — From celebrated authors to the director of Amnesty International USA and a nun who often challenges the precepts of the Catholic church, the 2002-2003 Distinguished Speakers series at the University of Dayton will offer insights into the worlds of writing and activism.

On the slate are Andre Dubus III, James Fallows, Sister Joan Chittister, O.S.B., William Schulz and Ernest Gaines.

All presentations will be held at 8 p.m. in the Kennedy Union Ballroom on campus. Admission is free and open to the public.

- Andre Dubus, author of *The House of Sand and Fog*, will speak Thursday, Oct. 10. The book was a finalist for the 1999 National Book Award in Fiction and was a selection for Oprah Winfrey's book club. It focuses on a woman unfairly evicted from her home and the Iranian colonel who comes to occupy the house. Students in the scholars program at UD will read the book in preparation for his talk.

Before turning to writing, Dubus worked for brief times as a bounty hunter, private investigator, carpenter, bartender, actor and teacher. He has also published *The Cage Keeper and Other Stories* and *Bluesman*.

"I never get a plot first," he said in an interview with Bookreporter.com. "On purpose I try not to. I teach writing at Tufts College and Emerson College. I always counsel my writers around this. Everyone does it differently. It's important not to plot things out first and important to follow the character. ... The story will then flow from the characters."

- James Fallows, author, national correspondent for *The Atlantic Monthly*, will speak on Thursday, Nov. 14. Recent works include *Free Flight: From Airline Hell to a New Age of Travel* and *Breaking the News: How the Media Undermine American Democracy*.

"The nature of today's pack journalism is you have 99 percent of the energy going into covering 1 percent of the stories, which means there is 99 percent of the stories which only have 1 percent of the people to deal with them," Fallows said in a 1986 interview on PBS *Frontline*. "And so if you think for a second about writing about things that are not

-over-

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS  
300 College Park Dayton, Ohio 45469-1679  
(937) 229-3241 (937) 229-3063 Fax  
[www.udayton.edu](http://www.udayton.edu)

in that 1 percent that everybody else is on, suddenly the world is full of interesting stuff that no one else is writing about."

- Joan Chittister will present "Heart of Flesh" on Wednesday, Nov. 20, when she will analyze the structures of patriarchy in the Catholic Church and in society and prepare the way for a new approach to human relationships and a new way of relating to God. Often criticized for her views on ordination of women, she ignored a Vatican order forbidding her to speak at the first international conference on the subject in 2001.

"People want difficult questions aired and discussed, not in order to weaken the church, but so that the church can be a community of serious adults with a common heart in what are clearly challenging — and changing — times," she wrote in an open letter on the Benetvision Web site.

- William Schulz, who was appointed executive director of Amnesty International USA in 1994, will speak on Wednesday, Jan. 15. Throughout his career he has been outspoken in his opposition to the death penalty and his support for women's rights, gay and lesbian rights and racial justice.

In April 2001, his latest book, *In Our Own Best Interests: How Defending Human Rights Benefits Us All*, was published by Beacon Press.

"The more respect for human rights you find in a country, the more stable that country is likely to be, the more inclined it is to respect international agreements and the less likely it is to resort to war against other human right-respecting countries," he said in 2001. "That means if we want to avoid a war with China, we ought to care as much about the Chinese people's human rights as we do about selling them Palm Pilots."

- Ernest Gaines, whose best-known work may be the fictional *Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*, will speak on Tuesday, March 11. He bases his books in rural Louisiana where he was raised by an aunt until moving to California at age 15. His characters are rooted in the complex world of black culture and Southern rural life, spanning the 20th century.

*A Lesson Before Dying*, his most recent novel, won the 1993 National Book Critics Circle Award. He has also been awarded a MacArthur Foundation grant, for writings of "rare historical resonance." He lives in San Francisco and Lafayette, La., where he is writer-in-residence at the University of Southwestern Louisiana.

"When I speak to black students about Hemingway, they often ask me what I expect them to learn from 'that white man.' I tell them: 'All Hemingway wrote about was grace under pressure. And he was talking about you. Can you tell me a better example of grace under pressure than our people for the past 300 years? Grace under pressure isn't just about bullfighters and men at war. It's about getting up every day to face a job or a white boss you don't like but have to face to feed your children so they'll grow up to be a better generation,'" Gaines said.

His books also include *A Long Day in November*, *In My Father's House* and *A Gathering of Old Men*.

For more information on the UD Distinguished Speaker series, contact Kathleen Norman at (937) 229-4114 or via e-mail at [Kathleen.Norman@notes.udayton.edu](mailto:Kathleen.Norman@notes.udayton.edu).

renovation to equip it with team laboratories, 400 data outlets and brand-new centers, such as the Center for Portfolio Management, where undergraduate finance students manage \$1 million of real money, and the L. William Crotty Business Center, which serves as a modern meeting and gathering space. The School of Business Administration has endowed professorships in every business discipline and, in the past year alone, its students and faculty have been featured in the *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, *Business Week*, *U.S. News & World Report*, the *Financial Times* and CNBC, among other national media.

Other marks:

- Stronger faculty. UD has now created endowed chairs and professorships in every academic unit with gifts from individuals and corporate partner NCR.
- Innovative curricula. The "New Engineer" curriculum, for instance, provides engineering students with technical expertise and focuses on instilling improved critical thinking, interpersonal, teaming and leadership skills as well as a stronger commitment to serving society through their profession. Partially funded by Reynolds and Reynolds, the Urban Teacher Academy is a partnership between UD and Dayton Public Schools. Designed to prepare future teachers for urban schools, the academy program includes pairing UD education students with veteran Dayton teachers for the final two years of their bachelor's degree program, which includes the student teaching assignment, and for the first one to three years of their teaching careers.
- Improved facilities. From the School of Law's Joseph E. Keller Hall, which stands as a new landmark at the entrance of campus, to the Bombeck Family Learning Center, an expanded child-care center that now serves as a pre-service teaching site for UD's early childhood education students, the mark is obvious. UD officials built the Donohoe Basketball Center at UD Arena and, in the spring, broke ground on a science center that combines and modernizes its two science buildings. The new Ryan C. Harris Learning Teaching Center, a laboratory of innovation for learning and teaching, is a model for introducing new technologies into the curriculum, and the Learning Living Arts Center, still on the drawing board, will enrich both the intellectual and residential experience of students in the campus neighborhood. Major renovation projects have included Miriam Hall, home of the School of Business Administration, and Liberty Hall, home to campus ministry.
- Stronger Catholic and Marianist identity. Initiatives have included the establishment of a Ph.D. program in theology with a focus on the U.S. Catholic experience, the Institute for Pastoral Initiatives, programs to promote UD's Catholic intellectual tradition and scholarships for students from Marianist high schools around the country. Funded through a \$2 million Lilly Endowment, the Program in Christian Leadership prepares undergraduates to take on leadership roles in their churches and in society.
- Focus on service-learning, here and abroad. The Center for Leadership in Community facilitates the work of hundreds of students and professors in neighborhoods, schools and across the community on issues such as poverty, the

"digital divide," neighborhood redevelopment and racial tensions. The Hull International Fellows Fund gives students the opportunity to travel abroad to conduct research and participate in international conferences and service-learning programs. During the "Call to Lead" campaign, the Templeton Foundation recognized UD as having one of the nation's best service-learning programs that encourages students to contribute and learn through volunteer activity.

- Increased reputation. UD now ranks as a national doctoral university, with the School of Business Administration placing among the top 50 private undergraduate business schools in the country, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. The University of Dayton's teacher education program is one of the best in the state, according to the Ohio Department of Education. The campus has gained national recognition for its use of technology.

Nationally, giving to higher education grew 4.3 percent in 2000-01 fiscal year, despite the failing stock market and poor economy, according to an annual fund-raising survey conducted by the Council for Aid to Education. Estimated private contributions hit a record \$24.2 billion.

After topping its \$150 million goal, what's next for the University of Dayton?

"The Call to Lead campaign attracted a large number of donors from around the country in the support of UD's mission and vision. It allowed us to infuse cash across a broad base of programs, increase scholarships and build facilities," said Fran Evans, vice president for University advancement. "We'll go forward with some very targeted and focused fund-raising priorities."

-30-

To arrange media interviews, contact **Teri Rizvi** at (937) 229-3241.